

REMARKS

By this Preliminary Amendment, claims 18 and 24 are amended and claim 23 is canceled. Accordingly, claims 1-22 and 24-36 are pending in this application.

Claim 18 is amended to recite the forming of a second layer of structural material over the first layer of sacrificial material. As discussed in the Response to Restriction and Election of Species Requirement filed herewith, this feature corresponds to the layer forming a membrane as recited in claim 33. Thus, the amendment is made to clarify that the method recited in claim 18 and the device recited in claim 33 are not properly restrictable.

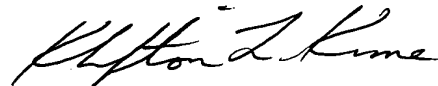
Claim 23 is cancelled to avoid double recitation. Claim 24 is amended to depend from claim 18 in view of the cancellation of claim 23 from which it previously depended.

Therefore, the amendments to the claims are for reasons unrelated to patentability of the claims.

Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application are earnestly solicited upon entry of the foregoing amendments.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:

Response to Restriction and Election of Species Requirement

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